

Message Text

PAGE 01 RANGOO 02469 200551Z

20

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W

----- 040690

R 200510Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7332

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T RANGOON 2469

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINS, TH, BM

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ELIZAVETINE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS INTERPRETER, CALLED ON ME OCTOBER 19 TO INQUIRE ABOUT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE OF KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY THE US POSITION SET FORTH IN REFTEL. TO MAKE SURE THAT HE WOULD GET MESSAGE STRAIGHT I GAVE HIM AN INFORMAL PAPER, WHICH ALSO REFERRED TO MEETING WITH CHU CHIA-TSAI TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 25.

2. AMBASSADOR ELIZAVETINE MADE NO COMMENT REGARDING OUR REFUSAL TO CONDONE OR BE A PARTY TO ANY AGREEMENT INVOLVING DISPOSAL OF OPIUM BUT HIS INTERPRETER SAID THAT OUR POSITION WAS "QUITE NATURAL". ELIZAVETINE SEEMED TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH INFORMATION HE HAD THAT THE BURMESE WERE NEGOTIATING WITH THE THAIS ABOUT THE KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS. HE WAS AFRAID THAT IF LOI MAW GROUP HEARD ABOUT THIS THEY WOULD REFUSE TO RELEASE RUSSIANS. I SAID THAT I HAD NOT HEARD OF SUCH THAI/BURMESE CONTACTS BUT IN ANY CASE I FELT QUITE SURE THAT BURMESE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT MAKE ANY DEMANDS WHICH WOULD JEOPARDIZE RELEASE OF TWO KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS.

SECRET

PAGE 02 RANGOO 02469 200551Z

GUB WAS FULLY AWARE OF LOI MAW GROUP'S DESIRE NOT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH GUB IN THE MATTER.

3. ELIZAVETINE THEN RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT GUB MIGHT

ASK RTG TO RELEASE RUSSIANS TO THE BURMESE SO THEY
COULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO BURMA. I SAID I COULD SEE NO
REASON WHATEVER THAT BURMESE WOULD INSIST ON THIS.

4. ELIZAVETINE THEN ASKED ABOUT ROLE OF RTG AND I
EXPLAINED THAT RTG WANTED TO BE IN CHARGE OF THE
RELEASE SINCE IT WAS TAKING PLACE ON THAI TERRITORY.
WE AMERICANS WOULD STAND BY TO BE OF ANY HELP BUT IT
WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY A THAI OPERATION. ELIZAVETINE
WONDERED WHETHER THAIS WOULD THEN TURN OVER THE RUSSIANS
TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. I SAID I SAW NO
REASON WHY THEY WOULD NOT. ELIZAVETINE INDICATED THAT
RUSSIANS WOULD BE SENT BACK TO SOVIET UNION DIRECT FROM
THAILAND.

5. THROUGHOUT OUR DISCUSSION AMBASSADOR ELIZAVETINE'S
PRINCIPAL WORRY SEEMED TO BE THAT THE GUB WOULD DO
SOMETHING STUPID TO UPSET THE APPLE CART.

6. DCM MEANWHILE CONVEYED US POSITION AND GAVE COPY OF
SAME INFORMAL PAPER CITED PARA 1 ABOVE TO MFA'S CHIEF
OF CONSULAR DIVISION (U SAW DOE SAITO), WITH AMBASSADOR'S
REQUEST THAT U WIN, WHO ATTENDING PARTY CONGRESS, BE
INFORMED SOONEST. U SAW DOE SAITO PROMISED TO DO SO, NOTING
THAT U WIN ANXIOUS TO GET LATEST NEWS, BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE
COMMENT.
MARTIN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, DRUG CONTROL, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RANGOO02469
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750018-1047
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcegtu.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KIDNAPPED RUSSIANS
TAGS: SNAR, PINS, TH, BM, (CHU CHIA TSAI)
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
MOSCOW
CHIANG MAI
HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005